



State of Connecticut
House of Representatives

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Public Health Committee
Public Testimony
HB 5535
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5535

Co-Chairs Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter; Ranking Members Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan; and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Gregg Haddad and I represent the 54th District. I am writing this in support of House Bill 5535, An Act Concerning Baby Changing Stations in Restaurants. This bill would require that baby changing stations be installed in restrooms at restaurants in certain instances.

As a father, I've been frustrated that some restaurants have not provided sanitary and safe accommodations for a diaper change if needed. Remarkably, many of these restaurants are otherwise welcoming to toddlers and offer high chairs and menu items that cater to children. I'm not sure where management thinks a parent should change a diaper, but all too often, I have found myself changing my daughter's diaper on a bench seat in a booth, or in the trunk of my car. Neither is a good option, but both are preferable to using a public bathroom's floor. When I've discussed this issue with other parents, I've found that most parents share my frustration.

House Bill 5535 would require that baby changing stations be installed in new or newly renovated restroom facilities at restaurants. Increased accessibility to safe and sanitary diaper changing stations will result in a manner that is not onerous to small business owners. When designing new or renovated bathroom facilities, restaurant owners can easily and affordably provide this much needed amenity.

I hope you'll agree that this is a reasonable change to the public health code. It will provide a safer eating environment for all.